

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:

a magazine;

a frame with a magazine well for receiving the magazine;

a slide removably mounted on the frame, wherein the slide may be in a

5 chamber closed position and a chamber open position;

a striker firing-pin assembly mounted within the slide;

a firing mechanism having a trigger, a trigger bar, and a sear; and

an access port disposed in the slide;

wherein when the slide is in said chamber closed position, said sear is

10 accessible through said access port.

2. The firearm of claim 1, wherein in the chamber closed position, the access port is aligned with the sear.

3. The firearm of claim 2, further comprising:

a sear assembly that includes a sear housing and a sear guide;

wherein the sear is slidably mounted within the sear housing and guided by the sear guide.

4. The firearm of claim 3, wherein said the assembly further comprises a sear spring that biases the sear substantially toward the slide.

5. The firearm of claim 3, wherein the sear assembly further comprises a pivot arm, wherein the sear is slidably attached to the pivot arm and the pivot arm is pivotally attached to the sear housing.

6. The firearm of claim 5, wherein the sear guide extends through a slot in the sear and a sear spring biases the sear into contact with the sear guide.

7. The firearm of claim 5 further comprising a magazine safety that impairs the

movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated.

8. The firearm of claim 7 wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever that engages a pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear.

9. The firearm of claim 2, wherein inserting a probe into the access port and moving the sear with the probe permits the slide to be removed from the frame.

10. A semi-automatic firearm, comprising:

a frame;

a slide removably mounted on the frame;

a firing mechanism; and

an access port disposed in the slide;

wherein the firing mechanism is accessible through the access port and can be manipulated to allow removal of the slide from the frame.

11. The firearm of claim 10 wherein the access port is aligned with the firing mechanism when the slide is in a chamber-closed position.

12. The firearm of claim 11 further comprising a magazine safety that impairs the

movement of the firing mechanism so that the firing mechanism cannot be actuated.

13. The firearm of claim 12, wherein the magazine safety comprises a lever that engages a pin attached to the sear when the magazine safety is on, and thereby impairs lateral movement of the sear.

providing an access port within the slide positioned to align with the firing mechanism;

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moving the firing mechanism with the probe, and thereby enabling the slide to be removed from the frame.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of moving the firing mechanism with the probe includes the step of depressing a sear out of engagement with a firing-pin assembly.